

1 in Schedules II, III, or IV, or an opioid that is a controlled substance listed in Schedule V, and at
2 least once every ninety (90) days thereafter for the duration of the course of treatment of using the
3 controlled substance.

4 4. Respondent began providing treatment to Patient A on August 16, 2018, and saw
5 Patient A thereafter on August 30, 2018, September 13, 2018, October 31, 2018,
6 November 26, 2018, December 21, 2018, September 16, 2021, and October 15, 2021, according to
7 the medical records provided to the Board in connection with this matter's corresponding
8 investigation.

9 5. In a letter from Respondent to the Board, dated June 24, 2022, Respondent
10 indicated that he "saw this patient only twice, first on 9/16/2021 and again on 10/15/21."

11 6. Respondent obtained a Patient Report from the PMP for Patient A on
12 September 16, 2021.⁴

13 7. At the time that Respondent obtained Patient A's Patient Report, it would have
14 shown that Patient A had received a prescription for "oxycodone-acetaminophen 7.5-325" written
15 on August 16, 2021, from another health care provider, that was filled on August 29, 2021.

16 8. This prescription was for thirty (30) days and totaled one hundred and twenty (120)
17 pills, meaning that Patient A would be taking four (4) oxycodone-acetaminophen 7.5-3.25 pills
18 per day.

19 9. On September 16, 2021, Respondent prescribed thirty (30) alprazolam 1 mg tablets
20 to Patient A, for thirty (30) days.

21 10. This means that, if Patient A was taking his medications as prescribed, he would
22 have been taking (1) alprazolam pill per day prescribed by Respondent at the same time that he
23 was taking four (4) oxycodone-acetaminophen pills per day.

24 11. The standard of care for prescribing controlled substances is to avoid the use of
25 benzodiazepines (such as alprazolam) with opioids (such as oxycodone-acetaminophen).

26 12. There is an increased potential for respiratory depression with the use of opioids
27 and benzodiazepines at the same time.

28

⁴ It is unknown whether Respondent obtained Patient Reports for Patient A during his care of Patient A in
2018 because those PMP records were not available to Board staff at the time of this investigation.

1 13. Respondent prescribed Patient A benzodiazepines on September 16, 2021, when
2 Respondent knew, or should have known, from Patient A's Patient Report that Patient A was
3 being prescribed opioids by another prescribing provider at that same time.

4 14. It is unknown whether Respondent actually reviewed Patient A's Patient Report
5 obtained by Respondent on September 16, 2021, because Respondent made no notes about it or
6 otherwise referred to it in Patient A's medical records.

7 15. Patient A's medical records do not show that Respondent discussed Patient A's use
8 of opioids and benzodiazepines at the same time with Patient A.

9 16. Patient A's medical records do not show that Respondent suggested other
10 medication options for Patient A in order to avoid Patient A from taking both opioids and
11 benzodiazepines at the same time.

12 17. Patient A's use of both opioids and benzodiazepines at the same time put Patient A
13 at great risk.

14 18. Respondent should have talked to Patient A about this risk and documented that
15 discussion in Patient A's medical records.

16 19. Patient A's medical records do not reflect that Respondent discussed this with him.

17 20. The standard of care in a situation like this is to convert the patient's short-acting
18 benzodiazepine (alprazolam) to a long-acting version, such as diazepam or clonazepam, and then
19 taper off the use of the benzodiazepine at a rate of no more than 25% each week.

20 21. The standard of care would also include obtaining and/or attempting to obtain
21 outside medical records for the patient regarding the patient's use of the other medications listed
22 in the patient's Patient Report from the PMP.

23 22. Obtaining or attempting to obtain outside medical records for a patient would be
24 documented in the patient's medical records.

25 23. Patient A's medical records do not show that Respondent obtained or attempted to
26 obtain outside medical records for Patient A.

27 24. Respondent's notes in Patient A's medical records for September 16, 2021, and
28 October 15, 2021, are identical in the subjective section and mental status examination section,

1 except for the start/stop times and the note for September 16, 2021, that Patient A was being seen
2 by telemedicine.⁵

3 25. Upon information and belief, this is evidence that Respondent simply copied
4 verbiage from previous notes in Patient A’s medical records instead of recording what Patient A
5 said during that visit in the subjective section and actually completing and/or recording the results
6 of Patient A’s mental status examination during that visit.

7 26. Upon information and belief, Respondent copied and pasted progress notes from
8 visit to visit for Patient A, which led to a failure to maintain clear, legible, accurate, and complete
9 medical records for Patient A.

10 27. Patient A’s medical records for September 16, 2021, and October 15, 2021, include
11 information for vital signs taken from future dates, December 14, 2021, and January 11, 2022.

12 28. Specifically, for both September 16, 2021, and October 15, 2021, Patient A’s
13 medical records state “Blood pressure check – Unable to Obtain” on both December 14, 2021, and
14 January 11, 2022.

15 29. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 27–28 indicates that Patient A’s
16 medical records for September 16, 2021, and October 15, 2021, were actually created in the future
17 and then back-dated.

18 30. It is not appropriate under the standard of care to back-date patient medical records.

19 31. Back-dated patient records may be deemed as falsified records.

20 32. Patient A’s medical records for August 16, 2018, include information for vital
21 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2018 (6 future visits documented), 2019
22 (13 future visits documented), 2020 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits
23 documented), and 2022 (1 future visit documented).

24 33. Similarly, Patient A’s medical records for August 16, 2018, include “Weight
25 Control Review” information, including Patient A’s weight in pounds, for future dates in 2018 and
26 2019.

27
28 ⁵ On September 16, 2021, after “Chief Complaint”, Patient A’s medical record says “Today, patient
evaluated via telemedicine/Telehealth.” On October 15, 2021, after “Chief Complaint”, Patient As’ medical records
says “Patient is doing telemed appointment today.”

1 34. Specifically, there is no “Weight Control Review” information listed for that
2 appointment date, August 16, 2018, but there is information listed for future appointment dates
3 August 30, 2018, September 13, 2018, October 4, 2018, October 31, 2018, November 26, 2018,
4 December 21, 2018, March 14, 2019, May 10, 2019, June 5, 2019, July 3, 2019, and
5 August 28, 2019.

6 35. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 32–34 indicate that Patient A’s
7 medical records for August 16, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

8 36. Patient A’s medical records for August 30, 2018, includes information for vital
9 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2018 (5 future visits documented), 2019
10 (13 future visits documented), 2020 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits
11 documented), and 2022 (1 future visit documented).

12 37. Similarly, “Weight Control Review” information is included in Patient A’s medical
13 records on August 30, 2018, for ten (10) future dates in 2018 and 2019.

14 38. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 36–37 indicate that Patient A’s
15 medical records for August 30, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

16 39. Patient A’s medical records for September 13, 2018, include information for vital
17 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2018 (4 future visits documented), 2019
18 (13 future visits documented), 2020 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits
19 documented), and 2022 (1 future visit documented).

20 40. Similarly, “Weight Control Review” information is included in Patient A’s medical
21 records on September 13, 2018, for nine (9) future dates in 2018 and 2019.

22 41. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 39–40 indicate that Patient A’s
23 medical records for September 13, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

24 42. Patient A’s medical records for October 31, 2018, include information for vital
25 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2018 (2 future visits documented), 2019
26 (13 future visits documented), 2020 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits
27 documented), and 2022 (1 future visit documented).

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1 43. Similarly, “Weight Control Review” information is included in Patient A’s medical
2 records on October 31, 2018, for seven (7) future dates in 2018 and 2019.

3 44. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 42–43 indicate that Patient A’s
4 medical records for October 31, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

5 45. Patient A’s medical records for November 26, 2018, include information for vital
6 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2018 (1 future visit documented), 2019 (13
7 future visits documented), 2020 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits documented),
8 and 2022 (1 future visit documented).

9 46. Similarly, “Weight Control Review” information is included in Patient A’s medical
10 records on November 26, 2018, for six (6) future dates in 2018 and 2019.

11 47. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 45–46 indicate that Patient A’s
12 medical records for November 26, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

13 48. Patient A’s medical records for December 21, 2018, include information for vital
14 signs (blood pressure check) taken from future dates in 2019 (13 future visits documented), 2020
15 (4 future visits documented), 2021 (2 future visits documented), and 2022 (1 future visit
16 documented).

17 49. Similarly, “Weight Control Review” information is included in Patient A’s medical
18 records on December 21, 2018, for five (5) future dates in 2019.

19 50. Upon information and belief, the information in ¶ 48–49 indicate that Patient A’s
20 medical records for December 21, 2018, were actually created in the future and then back-dated.

21 51. It is not appropriate under the standard of care to back-date patient medical records.

22 52. Back-dated patient records may be deemed as falsified records.

23 53. Upon information and belief, Respondent’s care of Patient A showed a lack of
24 diligence in both documentation, review, and management of Patient A’s medications which fell
25 below the standard of care.

26 54. It is unethical to pre-date or back-date a patient’s medical record.

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1 55. Alternatively, if Patient A’s medical records were not backdated by Respondent,
2 they were not saved in a format that could not be altered in the future which would also fall below
3 the standard of care for maintaining proper medical records.

4 56. Respondent also failed to ensure that Patient A’s current medications were
5 correctly documented in Patient A’s medical records.

6 57. For this reason, it is difficult to ascertain what medications Patient A was taking
7 from visit-to-visit and/or what medications were a part of Patient A’s current treatment plan.

8 58. For example, Patient A’s medical records dated August 18, 2018, list both
9 alprazolam 2 mg (quantity 60) and 1 mg (quantity 90) as current medications for Patient A.

10 59. Similarly, Patient A’s medical records dated August 16, 2018, list two strengths
11 and quantities of doxepin (25 mg and 75 mg) for Patient A as well as three strengths of
12 lamotrigine (25 mg, 100 mg, and 150 mg) three strengths and quantities of quetiapine (50 mg, 200
13 mg, and 100 mg), and two strengths of venlafaxine (75 mg and 150 mg).

14 60. Some of the medications shown in Patient A’s current medication list also treat the
15 same conditions, such as Pristiq and venlafaxine, among others, and it is unclear which of these
16 medications Patient A is actually taking and/or whether or not the overlap of medications is
17 intentional.⁶

18 61. The same concerns noted above in ¶ 56–60 regarding Patient A’s medical records
19 dated August 16, 2018, are also evident in all of the other records for Patient A provided to the
20 Board’s investigator in connection with this investigation.

21 62. Specifically, those medical records are dated August 30, 2018,
22 September 13, 2018, October 31, 2018, November 26, 2018, December 21, 2018,
23 September 16, 2021, and October 15, 2021, and show similar confusion and/or lack of clarity
24 regarding Patient A’s current medications with regard to both different strengths and quantities as
25 well as possible overlap due to treating the same conditions with more than one medication.

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28 ⁶ Multiple medications shown in Patient A’s medical records as “current medications” treat both anxiety and depression, among other conditions. It is unclear what medications are truly current medications and what medications are no longer being used by Patient A.

Respondent's Closure of Grand Desert Psychiatry

72. Patient B was a patient at Respondent's practice, Grand Desert Psychiatry, located at 2021 S. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146 (Grand Desert) from 2017–2022.

73. On June 14, 2023, Respondent requested to the Board that his license to practice medicine be placed on inactive status due to his inability to comply with the monitoring term contained in the Board's Order dated December 8, 2022, in Legal Case No. 21-22461-1.

74. Upon information and belief, Respondent closed Grand Desert on or about that same time (June 14, 2023).

75. Respondent did not notify the Board in writing within fourteen (14) days after the closure of Grand Desert that he had closed his practice, and he did not provide the location of the medical records for his patients to the Board.

76. In addition, Respondent did not notify the Board that there was a change to his mailing address.

77. As of the date of this Complaint, the only address that Respondent has provided to the Board is the street address for Grand Desert. This address is listed as his public address in his licensing profile.

78. As of the date of this Complaint, Respondent provided the same address to the Board for his mailing address and that address remains in his licensing profile.

Respondent's Medical Records for Patient B

79. Patient B was a twenty-nine (29) year-old female at the time of the events at issue.⁷

80. Patient B filed a complaint with the Board in February 2024 due to her inability to obtain her medical records from Respondent.

81. On March 5, 2024, an investigator for the Board sent an allegation letter to Respondent, at his address of record, regarding Patient B's complaint, containing an IC Order to produce Patient B's medical records, requesting a response within thirty (30) days (April 4, 2024).

82. This letter and the IC Order were returned to the Board by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable return to sender" because Grand Desert is closed.

⁷ Patient B's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect her privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

1 89. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as
2 provided in NRS 630.352.

3 **COUNT II**

4 **NRS 630.3062(1)(a) - Failure to Maintain Complete Medical Records**

5 90. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by
6 reference as though fully set forth herein.

7 91. NRS 630.3062(1)(a) provides that the “failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate
8 and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient” constitute
9 grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.

10 92. Respondent failed to maintain complete medical records relating to the diagnosis,
11 treatment and care of Patient A, by failing to ensure that Patient A’s medical records were clear,
12 legible, accurate, and complete.

13 93. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed
14 to maintain complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patient A, by
15 1) failing to completely and correctly document his medical care and treatment for Patient A with
16 over-reliance on templated material in the medical records for Patient A and/or over-reliance on
17 copy and pasting data from other patient visits; 2) back-dating Patient A’s medical records or
18 otherwise allowing information from future visits to be included in Patient A’s medical records on
19 a specific date; 3) not documenting his review and/or discussion of Patient A’s Patient Report
20 from the PMP in Patient A’s medical records; 4) failing to ensure that Patient A’s current
21 medication list and treatment plan was updated and accurate at each visit; and/or 5) failing to
22 document any attempt to obtain outside medical records for Patient A related to Patient A’s use of
23 opioids prescribed by another provider.

24 94. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as
25 provided in NRS 630.352.

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COUNT VII

NRS 630.3065(2)(c) – Knowing or Willful Failure to Comply with a Provision in NRS

Chapter 630

113. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

114. Respondent failed to respond to the IC's Order to Produce Patient B's records in Investigation No. 24-23855.

115. Respondent failed to update both his permanent and mailing addresses on file with the Board as required by NRS 630.254.

116. Respondent also failed to inform the Board regarding the location of his patients' records as required by NRS 630.254.

117. Respondent, as a highly educated person and a holder of a privileged license issued by the Board, knew or should have known that he must update his permanent and mailing addresses with the Board.

118. Respondent, as a highly educated person and a holder of a privileged license issued by the Board, knew or should have known that the location of his patients' records is important to his patients, and therefore, to the Board, in order to protect the public.⁹

119. It is not reasonable for Respondent, as a highly education person and a holder of a privileged license issued by the Board, to close his practice without ensuring that his patients have the ability to access their medical records.

120. Accordingly, Respondent's actions with regard to the location of his patients' records, his patients' access to their records, and providing information to the Board regarding the closure of his practice and the location of his patients' records may be deemed knowing and willful.

121. Accordingly, Respondent knowingly and/or willfully failed to comply with NRS 630.254, which is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 630.3065(2)(c).

⁹ The Board has statutory authority to take possession of patient medical records if a physician is unable to keep his or her office open due to death, disability, incarceration or any other incapacitation in order to ensure that patients are able to have access to their medical records. NRS 630.139. The Board has a duty to protect the public in all of its actions. See NRS 630.003.

1 122. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as
2 provided in NRS 630.352.

3 **WHEREFORE**, the Investigative Committee prays:

4 1. That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give
5 him notice that he may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in
6 NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;

7 2. That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early
8 Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

9 3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been
10 a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;

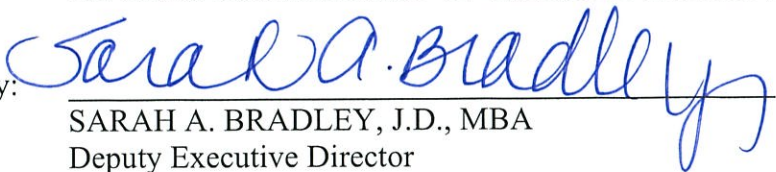
11 4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this
12 case as outlined in NRS 622.400;

13 5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact,
14 conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and

15 6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these
16 premises.

17 DATED this 17th day of May, 2024.

18 INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
19 NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

20 By: 

21 SARAH A. BRADLEY, J.D., MBA
22 Deputy Executive Director
23 9600 Gateway Drive
24 Reno, NV 89521
25 Tel: (775) 688-2559
26 Email: bradleys@medboard.nv.gov
27 *Attorney for the Investigative Committee*
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE)

Bret W. Frey, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

DATED this 17th day of May, 2024.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____


BRET W. FREY, M.D.
Chairman of the Investigative Committee

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am employed by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on the 17th day of May, 2024, I served a file-stamped copy of the foregoing **COMPLAINT** and **PATIENT DESIGNATION** via USPS Certified Mail, postage pre-paid, to the following parties:

MATTHEW OBIM OKEKE, M.D.
c/o Liborius Agwara, Esq.
Law Offices of Libo Agwara, Ltd.
2785 E. Desert Inn Rd., Ste. 280
Las Vegas, NV 89121

Tracking No.: 9171 9690 0935 0241 6277 42

DATED this 17th day of May, 2024.



MERCEDES FUENTES
Legal Assistant
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners